

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 13-14, 17, 20-22 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,109,984 to Tsou ("Tsou"). Claims 2 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsou in view of United States Patent No. 5,630,737 to Dupont ("Dupont"). Claims 3-4, 9-12, 15-16 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsou in view of United States Patent No. 4,687,273 to Pranch ("Pranch"). Claims 5 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsou in view of United States Patent No. 5,422,438 to Lamome ("Lamome"). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsou in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,320,565 to Polidori ("Polidori"). Applicant submits that the present rejections should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed below.

The claims have been amended to correct typographical errors noted by Applicant's representative. New Claims 28 and 29 have been added.

Applicant notes that the present rejections correspond to the previous rejections although the Examiner is now citing different elements of the Tsou reference as corresponding to various recitations of the claims of the present application. Accordingly, only the newly raised issues will be addressed in this response to facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections. However, Applicant's previous response mailed May 12, 2003 and, where applicable, the Amendment mailed December 19, 2002, are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in its entirety.

The Office Action asserts, among other things, that Tsou discloses an electrical connector including "a connector body (54) including a tubular socket (57) configured to receive an electrical conductor (70), clamping means (Column 5, Lines 3-5) arranged to secure the electrical conductor (70) within the socket (57), and a tubular socket insert (58) and fitting within the tubular socket (57) so as to reduce the effective size of the socket (57) and the socket insert (58) having a diameter selected to reduce an effective diameter of the socket (57) to reduce eccentricity of positioning of the electrical conductor (70) within the electrical connector (Fig. 3)." Office Action, pp. 2-3. A bolt (not shown) in "respective

threaded bores (62)" is cited as operating "to clamp, via the socket insert (58)" and to "position the socket insert (58) between the clamping member (40) and the electrical connector." Office Action, p. 3.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application of Tsou could not have been anticipated by Applicant previously as it is so clearly unsupportable. As an initial matter, Applicant's representative did an electronic search of Tsou on the Patent Office database (in addition to a review of the printed document) and found no reference to an item number 40. Accordingly, Applicant will assume that the Examiner intended to assert that the not shown bolt and the bore 62 of Tsou is being applied as a clamping means and the reference to item number 40 will be ignored.

With this understanding, and viewing the conductive bar 54 of Tsou as the claimed connector body and the second cavity 57 of Tsou as the claimed socket, Applicant submits that the present rejections are baseless at least based on one or more of the following observations:

1) The conductor 70 of Tsou is not received within the cavity 57 ("the rear end of the conductive pin 58 is left outside the conductive bar 54", Tsou, Col. 6, lines 1-12). The conductor 70 of Tsou is only described as received in the cavity 57 in a repair mode where the conductive pin 58 is not used. Tsou, Col. 7, lines 1-10.

2) The pin 58 of Tsou is configured to snugly fit in the cavity 57 and does not "reduce eccentricity" as stated at page 3 of the Office Action. Tsou, Col. 5, lines 17-37.

3) The bore 62 of Tsou as described as being used to allow removal of, not to retain, the pin 58. Tsou, Col. 6, lines 53-59.

4) The pin 58 is not deformed by the bolt (not shown) in the opening 62 to engage the conductor 70 of Tsou against an opposing surface of the cavity 57 as the conductor 70 is attached to the rear end of the pin 58 outside of the cavity 57. Tsou, 6, lines 1-12.

Applicant respectfully submits that the relationship of these inaccuracies in the characterizations of Tsou relied on in the present rejections to the claims clearly establishes that the present rejections should be withdrawn. For example, Applicant submits that at least the highlighted recitations of the independent claims are neither disclosed nor suggested:

1. An electrical connector comprising a connector body including a

tubular socket **configured to receive an electrical conductor**, clamping means **arranged to secure the electrical conductor within the socket**, and a socket insert fitting within the tubular socket so as to reduce the effective size of the socket, wherein the socket insert is tubular and is **adapted to be deformed by the clamping means into retaining engagement with the electrical conductor and** wherein the clamping means comprises at least one clamping bolt held in respective threaded bores in the connector body **such that the at least one clamping bolt extends into the socket so as to clamp, via the socket insert, an electrical conductor inserted in the socket against an opposing surface of the socket.**

9. A socket insert for an electrical connector having a socket in **which, in use, an electrical conductor is received, the socket insert comprising a tubular and deformable member having a at least one of a castellated or corrugated profile on an outside surface thereof.**

13. An electrical connector comprising:
a connector body defining a socket therein;
a clamping member coupled to the connector body **adapted to secure an electrical conductor within the socket;** and
a socket insert positioned within the socket adjacent the clamping member, **the socket insert being configured to be deformed by the clamping member into retaining engagement with the electrical conductor within the socket.**

21. A socket insert for an electrical connector, the socket insert comprising a tubular member configured to be **movably positioned** within an internal socket of the electrical connector and **to be deformed by a clamping member of the electrical connector into retaining engagement with an electrical conductor within the socket insert, the socket insert having a diameter selected to reduce an effective diameter of the socket to reduce eccentricity of positioning of the electrical conductor within the electrical connector.**

22. An electrical connector comprising:
a connector body defining a socket therein;
a clamping member coupled to the connector body **adapted to secure an electrical conductor within the socket;**
a substantially tubular socket insert positioned within the socket adjacent the clamping member, **the socket insert being configured to be deformed by the clamping member into retaining engagement with the electrical conductor within the socket;** and
wherein **the electrical conductor is received within the tubular socket insert to position the socket insert between the clamping member and the electrical connector and between an opposing surface of the socket relative to**

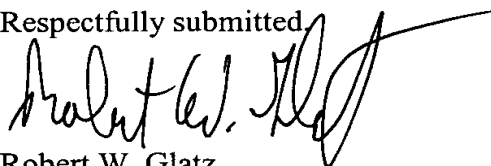
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the clamping member and the electrical conductor.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that, for the reasons discussed above, the references cited in the present rejections do not disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all the pending claims and passing this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted

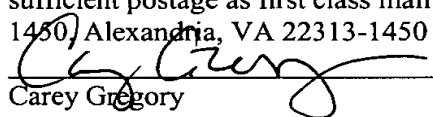


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